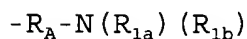


at least one of said nucleosides bears at a 2'-O-position, a 3'-O-position, or a 5'-O-position a terminal substituent having formula:



where:

$R_A$  is alkyl having from 1 to about 10 carbon atoms or  $(CH_2-CH_2-Q)_x$ ;

$R_{1a}$  and  $R_{1b}$ , independently, are H,  $R_2$ , or an amine protecting group or have formula  $C(X)-R_2$ ,  $C(X)-R_A-R_2$ ,  $C(X)-Q-R_A-R_2$ ,  $C(X)-Q-R_2$ ; and

$R_2$  is a folate, a steroid molecule, a reporter molecule, a lipophilic molecule, a reporter enzyme, a peptide, a protein, or has formula  $-Q-(CH_2CH_2-Q)_x-R_3$ ;

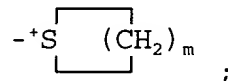
X is O or S;

each Q is, independently, is NH, O, or S;

x is about 1 to about 50; [1 to about 200;]

$R_3$  is H,  $R_A$ ,  $C(O)OH$ ,  $C(O)OR_A$ ,  $C(O)R_4$ ,  $R_A-N_3$ , or  $R_A-NH_2$ ;

$R_4$  is Cl, Br, I,  $SO_2R_5$  or has structure:



m is 2 to 7; and

$R_5$  alkyl having 1 to about 10 carbon atoms.

E  
cont